

## ***PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT RECORD KOBUK-SEWARD PENINSULA RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN***

**Meeting Location:** Shaktoolik, Alaska, Shaktoolik Public School

**Meeting Date:** March 23, 2004

**Purpose:** Identify public issues and concerns with BLM managed lands in the Planning Area.

**Number of public in attendance:** 6

**BLM personnel in attendance:** Bob Schneider, Jeanie Cole, Tom Dilts, and Tom Sparks

**Meeting format:** Through a PowerPoint presentation, attendees were introduced to what an RMP does and why BLM is doing a new one. They were also given examples of decisions that might come out of an RMP. They had the opportunity to review maps of land status, State-identified RS2477 routes, reindeer grazing allotments, anadromous streams, Seward 1008 PLO locations (mineral entry), guide use areas, and game management units in the Planning Area. Participants were asked to express their concerns and issues with BLM-managed public lands. These are documented below. An Interested Party letter explaining the types of decisions made in the RMP and giving an overview of the initial steps in planning was distributed. In addition, a small-scale map of the planning area, a copy of the planning website home page, and copy of the PowerPoint presentation were available for attendees to take. A scoping comment sheet that can either be filled out at the meeting or returned to BLM at a later date was also made available to attendees.

### **Issues/Questions/Concerns:**

1. Wild and scenic rivers: how would designation affect ability to manage beaver and fish populations? Would designation of a river as wild and scenic prevent management of beaver dams (i.e., destruction of dams that are degrading fish habitat).
2. Protection of subsistence should be the highest priority for land management. The Nulato Hills are an important subsistence area (federal lands outside native corporation boundaries). Highest subsistence use areas were selected by the Native Corporations to protect those lands.
3. Elders of Shaktoolik are taping a documentary on tribal laws. One is that beaver are not allowed in home. In the past, beavers were not abundant. They are common now. They block rivers. How does this affect fish and can the beaver dams be removed?
4. Dog (chum) salmon populations in the Shaktoolik River are declining.

5. Bison grazing is not a good idea. Introduction of muskoxen created a problem. Don't do the same thing with bison. Don't want bison (buffalo) or similar big game introduced in Nulato Hills.
6. BLM should look into allowing reindeer cooperatives again. Reindeer provide economic benefits and employment opportunities to the village. They would like to see reindeer grazing an option in their area.
7. There is interest in oil & gas leasing in Norton Bay. Some people favor oil and gas development in Norton Bay.
8. People would like to see a public use or subsistence use cabin in Agaanuk area (Shaktoolik River). There used to be a cabin up there.
9. They are concerned about OHV damage to berry patches – are trying to control ATV use on Village lands.
10. BLM should check with Kawerak on their subsistence use area database (Eskimo Heritage Program). Eskimo Heritage Program information would be good for BLM to obtain.
11. Sport hunting and guides are an emerging issue. It is just starting up in the Shaktoolik River where people can fly in. They have no problems with guides taking hunters in to get bears. They do have concerns about guides bringing in moose or caribou hunters.
12. There was some bulldozer work done about ten years ago at head of Ungalik and Shaktoolik Rivers. They scraped off the top of a hill. Did BLM authorize this and has it been restored? It was in the Traverse Peak area (between Ungalik and Inglutalik Rivers). Erosion into the rivers is of concern. (T1S, R5W?)
13. Land disposal: Shaktoolik would like additional BLM lands in the Nulato Hills.
14. The Iditarod is an important existing trail that is used for local travel between communities.
15. BLM should protect Norton Bay, specifically Reindeer Cove.